
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4008

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Wallace, Simpson, Clibborn, Morris, Lias,
Darneille, Moeller, Santos, and Wood

Read first time 01/29/09. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
5 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
6 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
7 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES:

8 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
9 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
10 represent and petition as follows:

11 WHEREAS, All people in Washington state should have access to
12 transportation services that not only support their basic human needs
13 but also provide them opportunities to lead a full and meaningful life;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Persons with special transportation needs include the
16 elderly, children, persons with physical and other disabilities, and
17 persons who struggle financially to support their needs and the needs
18 of their family; and

19 WHEREAS, The population of persons with special transportation

1 needs is increasing in Washington state and is expected to increase
2 substantially in the foreseeable future; and

3 WHEREAS, Reliable mobility for persons with special transportation
4 needs is not simply about accessing necessary medical services, it is
5 also about experiencing and contributing to one's community, the
6 feeling of belonging to one's community, and enjoying a quality of life
7 that all persons should be able to enjoy; and

8 WHEREAS, The Washington state legislature provides significant
9 support to special transportation needs providers and programs that
10 serve this community, and the Washington state legislature continues to
11 seek ways in which to advance the coordination and efficiencies in
12 delivery of those services; and

13 WHEREAS, The Washington state legislature, despite its ongoing
14 efforts to balance all of the needs of the citizens of this state,
15 cannot meet the basic needs of this growing community alone; and

16 WHEREAS, The Washington state legislature applauds the past and
17 current congressional support in meeting this community's needs and is
18 mindful of the economic challenges facing our nation; and

19 WHEREAS, Notwithstanding the challenges facing this state and our
20 nation, the Washington state legislature believes that the successful
21 future of any community is dependent on the active participation of,
22 and individual contributions made by, all of its citizens, for which
23 mobility is a basic and often forgotten necessity that is not readily
24 available to all persons;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress
26 will recognize and respond to this dire need for increased support of
27 these transportation programs and services by increasing federal
28 funding for these transportation programs and services and also by:

29 (1) Encouraging greater coordination of transportation services
30 among human service agencies, transportation agencies, and providers by
31 enacting legislation that establishes comparable planning requirements
32 for human service agencies as are established for use of public transit
33 funds authorized through SAFETEA-LU, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible,
34 Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, P.L. 109-59;

35 (2) Providing funding to support the transportation programs for
36 homeless students required under the McKinney Vento Act, reauthorized
37 as Title X, Part C, of the No Child Left Behind Act in January 2002,

1 the responsibility for which currently falls on our overburdened local
2 school districts;

3 (3) Allowing for more flexibility in the use of transportation
4 funding as it relates to special transportation needs and services;

5 (4) Supporting the Giving Incentives for Volunteers Everywhere
6 (GIVE) Act of 2008, which addresses the impact of high gas prices on
7 charitable volunteers by raising the volunteer deduction rate to
8 seventy percent of the standard business deduction rate and by
9 exempting from taxable income reimbursements for mileage traveled by a
10 volunteer at the same exemption rate provided to businesses; and

11 (5) Upon reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU, modifying existing criteria
12 to include a requirement that the award or use of Section 5311 funds
13 (rural transportation) be dependent on a coordinated public transit and
14 human services transportation plan.

15 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
16 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
17 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
18 House of Representatives, each member of Congress from the State of
19 Washington, the Secretary of the United States Department of
20 Transportation, the Secretary of the United States Department of
21 Education, and the Secretary of the United States Department of Health
22 and Human Services.

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